



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tetsuo TANIGUCHI et al.

Application No.: 09/593,800

Filed: June 15, 2000

For: STAGE DEVICE AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 2877

Examiner: P. Natividad

Docket No.: 10651

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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AMENDMENT FILED WITH RCE

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

After entry of the attached Request For Continued Examination (RCE), and in reply to the final Office Action dated May 3, 2002, the shortened statutory period for reply being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 11 and 29 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please replace claims 1, 2 and 10 as follows:

1. (Amended) A stage device, comprising:

a plurality of movable stages disposed on a certain movement plane so as to be movable independently of each other;

a first measurement system which measures within a predetermined measurement range a position of one of the plurality of movable stages; and

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